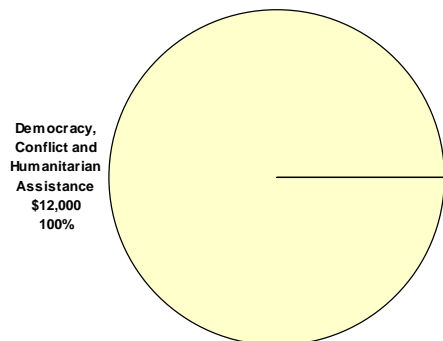
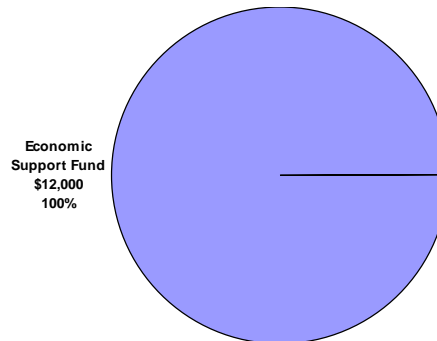


# Ireland

**FY 2006 Assistance by Sector**



**FY 2006 Assistance by Account**



## Objectives and Budget

Objective	SO Number	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
International Fund for Ireland	190-0410	18,391	18,352	8,500
Transfers		3,479	3,472	3,500
<b>Total (in thousands of dollars)</b>		<b>21,870</b>	<b>21,824</b>	<b>12,000</b>

**Mission Director:** Thomas Mefford

**The Development Challenge:** Tremendous changes have taken place since the 1998 approval of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) by an overwhelming majority of the populations in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. After general acceptance of the GFA and ceasefires by paramilitary organizations, Northern Ireland has experienced economic renewal. Nonetheless, political stability is still not fully realized and remains a key objective of U.S. policy. Sectarian confrontation within Northern Ireland, or more commonly, isolation or voluntary segregation between the unionist and nationalist communities, remains a challenge to building a diverse society founded on tolerance, equal rights, and a commitment to nonviolent political means for the common good.

Support for cross-community reconciliation has long been the focus of U.S. assistance to Northern Ireland and the six border counties of the Republic of Ireland: Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, and Louth. The U.S. Government makes significant contributions to the peace process through its support of the International Fund for Ireland and the Walsh Visa Program.

**The USAID Program:** International Fund for Ireland: As the major donor to the International Fund for Ireland (IFI), the United States provides assistance for economic development and cross-community reconciliation throughout Northern Ireland and the border counties.

The objectives of the IFI are to promote economic and social advancement, and encourage contact, dialogue, and reconciliation between nationalist and unionist communities throughout Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The IFI has been instrumental in providing new investment that creates jobs and reconstructs disadvantaged areas. Reconciliation projects have fostered cross-community exchanges involving youth and community leaders. Fund policy requires that all projects benefit both nationalist and unionist communities, and that the implementing organization includes members of the two communities. Through this policy, the IFI has been successful in encouraging communities to take ownership of projects. The jobs and social stability that have resulted from the U.S. contribution to the IFI are tangible expressions of U.S. policy in Northern Ireland.

**Other Program Elements:** The Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998, also known as the Walsh Visa Program, provides employment and job training for young people who are residents of Northern Ireland or one of the six border counties of the Republic of Ireland. The Walsh Visa Program supports economic regeneration as well as peace and reconciliation in these areas. After the participants complete a training program in Ireland, they are hired by a Walsh employer in the United States for up to 36 months.

**Other Donors:** IFI activities are financed through international contributions from the United States, European Union, and Canada. Each of the donors sends a non-voting observer to IFI Board meetings. New Zealand, and Australia, former donors which do not actively contribute to the Fund, retain the right to send non-voting observers to IFI Board meetings. In 2004, the United States was the largest donor to the fund, providing approximately 50% of total donor funding for the year.

## Ireland PROGRAM SUMMARY

(in thousands of dollars)

Accounts	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Current	FY 2006 Request
Economic Support Fund	28,297	21,870	21,824	12,000
<b>Total Program Funds</b>	<b>28,297</b>	<b>21,870</b>	<b>21,824</b>	<b>12,000</b>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE SUMMARY				
190-0410 International Fund for Ireland				
ESF	24,837	18,391	18,352	8,500
TRANSFER				
ESF	3,460	3,479	3,472	3,500

Note: Under transfers the Walsh Visa Program is included at the following levels: FY 2003 - \$3,460; FY 2004 - \$3,479; FY 2005 - \$3,472; and FY 2006 - 3,500.

Deputy Assistant Administrator,  
Thomas Mefford

### Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b> <b>Program Title:</b> <b>Pillar:</b> <b>Strategic Objective:</b> <b>Status:</b> <b>Planned FY 2005 Obligation:</b> <b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b> <b>Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	Ireland International Fund for Ireland Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade 190-0410 Continuing \$18,352,000 ESF \$18,391,000 ESF \$8,500,000 ESF
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**Year of Initial Obligation:**  
**Estimated Year of Final Obligation:**

1986

**Summary:** Through the International Fund for Ireland (IFI), the United States provides assistance for economic redevelopment and cross-community reconciliation throughout Northern Ireland and the six border counties of the Republic of Ireland.

**Inputs, Outputs, Activities:**

**FY 2005 Program:** Improve Community-based Reconciliation Efforts

International Fund for Ireland (IFI) (\$18,352,000 ESF, \$18,391,000 ESF carryover). The U.S. Government's contribution to the IFI, administered by USAID, is used in the following initiatives:

1) Community Capacity Building Initiative. This is the most people oriented component of the Fund's work, and is designed to provide people, particularly those in the most disadvantaged areas, with the skills, resources and self-confidence to undertake the social and economic regeneration of their communities. It also encourages local groups to reach out to other communities and through training and work experience helps young people to enter the labor market or further their education.

2) Regeneration of Deprived Areas Initiative. The grouping of community-led, economically driven initiatives under this heading comprises a number of key components which are designed to revitalize the most disadvantaged areas in Northern Ireland and the Southern border counties. In Northern Ireland, the Community Regeneration Improvement Special Program, which attracts co-funding from the Department for Social Development, is the principal program of support; the Border Towns and Villages Program operates in the Southern border counties. The Rural Development Program operates in Northern Ireland, with partnership funding from the Rural Development Council, and in the Southern border counties. The initiative also provides support to Special Projects which contribute to the Fund's overall objectives and for which there is no specific program of funding.

3) Economic Development Initiative. The programs brought together under this heading are designed to encourage the development of the local economic base by stimulating a number of community- and private sector-led initiatives designed to create economic opportunities and job creation in several key areas. Priority initiatives include encouraging the growth of small and medium sized companies; technical innovation, especially in product development and marketing methods; tourism, and support for the regeneration of derelict properties for commercial purposes in towns and villages. The Fund's support for a number of major flagship projects and its two investment companies are included under this heading.

The implementer is the IFI.

**FY 2006 Program:** Improve Community-based Reconciliation Efforts

International Fund for Ireland (\$8,500,000 ESF). It is expected that funds will continue to be used in projects designed to promote reconciliation and cross-community understanding. The implementer is the IFI.

**Performance and Results:** International Fund for Ireland. As a measure of the Fund's success, between 1987 and September 2004, about 5,500 Fund projects created over 42,000 jobs. Over 800 organizations have been assisted to promote social and economic development, involving more than 9,000 community leaders. For every U.S. dollar invested by the Fund, over two dollars are raised from private, British, and Irish sources, bringing total investment in the last 18 years in Northern Ireland and the six border counties of the Republic of Ireland to approximately \$2.194 billion. Continued U.S. support underpins U.S. efforts to create an enduring, sustainable peace in Northern Ireland.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Ireland

190-0410 International Fund for Ireland	DA	ESF
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>		
Obligations	19,600	411,484
Expenditures	19,600	361,647
Unliquidated	0	49,837
<b>Fiscal Year 2004</b>		
Obligations	0	0
Expenditures	0	49,836
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>		
Obligations	19,600	411,484
Expenditures	19,600	411,483
Unliquidated	0	1
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>		
Obligations	0	18,391
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>		
Obligations	0	18,352
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005</b>		
Obligations	0	36,743
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>		
Obligations	0	8,500
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	19,600	456,727